

Rep. Doris Matsui Statement on Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Plan Federal Funding to Assist Local Projects

WASHINGTON,
D.C. – Rep. Doris Matsui
(CA-05) spoke on the House Floor today in support of H. R.
1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Below are her remarks as prepared for delivery:

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Wednesday, January
28, 2009

CONTACT: Alexis Marks

(202) 225-7163

Rep. Doris Matsui Statement on Economic Recovery and
Reinvestment Plan

Federal Funding to Assist Local Projects

WASHINGTON,
D.C. – Rep. Doris Matsui
(CA-05) spoke on the House Floor today in support of H. R.
1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Below are her remarks as prepared for delivery:

“Everyone knows about the dire state of our economy. I
have talked to many of my constituents in Sacramento
who are struggling to make ends meet. They are facing layoffs, furloughs,
foreclosure, unpaid medical bills, and a lack of support to help them in this
crucial time.

“Last month the Greater Sacramento's unemployment rate rose six-tenths of a point to 8.7 percent, the highest monthly job loss since 1993. Approximately 4,700 jobs were cut in the region. And last month, the State of California suffered the third biggest monthly job loss since the end of World War II.

“That is why my colleagues and I have been working to develop this responsible economic recovery package. This package includes a historic investment in clean technology, transportation infrastructure, flood protection, and our children's education. It also goes to great lengths to assist our states in these difficult times with unemployment, Medicaid aid and COPS funding. These investments will help important priorities in my city and region as well as across the state.

“Sacramento needs urgent funding to strengthen levees on the Sacramento and American Rivers, make renovations at Sacramento State and in our local schools, invest in Sacramento Regional Transit's (RT's) light rail and bus, improve the terminal at Sacramento International, and work to improve Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD's) electric grid. The federal funds will also be able to be used on the downtown intermodal station, the accompanying relocation of the downtown rail lines, and will help the airport to move forward with construction.

“I am glad that all of these important projects will be eligible for funding under this package. Each project will improve our city and create jobs that will stimulate the economy. This legislation will go to great lengths to help Sacramento's 8.7% unemployment rate.

“I also understand that California could receive \$10 billion over two years in education spending; something our state desperately needs.

“Another key investment in this package is in our nation's broadband. It is unacceptable that our country has progressively fallen behind in broadband deployment. This new investment will ensure that every American can access information so that they may achieve the American dream.

“Of significant importance to Sacramento is flood protection. The

constant threat of flooding makes it more urgent than ever that the Federal government commit to flood protection infrastructure.

"I am encouraged that this bill includes \$2 billion to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Account. This money will help restore levees in my District and other flood control infrastructure across the country.

"I know that more needs to be done — especially in the Natomas area of Sacramento. I look forward to working with Chairman Obey and Chairman Visclosky to continue their commitment to the Corps and ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to flood protection and public safety.

"We need to address this economic crisis head-on. This package is a step forward. And as we have heard from experts on both side of the aisle, this will not cure our economy's problems, but it will begin to ensure that hardworking Americans get back to work and back on track.

"I urge others to support this important investment in our country's future."

###